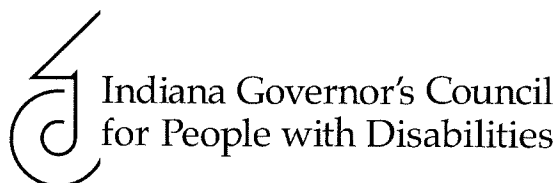
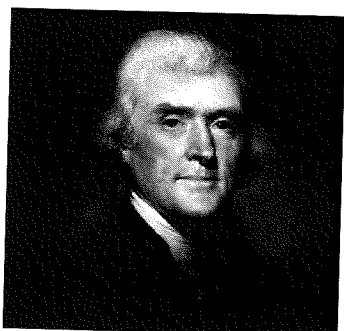


**A Quarter Century of Achieving Results
for Hoosiers with Disabilities
1980-2005**

***A Report by the
Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities***

December 2005





"I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions, but laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change, with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times. We might as well require a man to wear still the coat which fitted him when a boy as civilized society to remain ever under the regimen of their barbarous ancestors."

Thomas Jefferson
The third President of the United States
(1743-1826)



"Importantly, ADA is a landmark commandment of fundamental human morality. It is the world's first declaration of equality for people with disabilities by any nation. It will proclaim to America and to the world that people with disabilities are fully human; that paternalistic, discriminatory, segregationist attitudes are no longer acceptable; and that henceforth people with disabilities must be accorded the same personal respect and the same social and economic opportunities as other people."

Justin Dart
Foremost American Advocate for People with Disabilities
(1930 to 2003)

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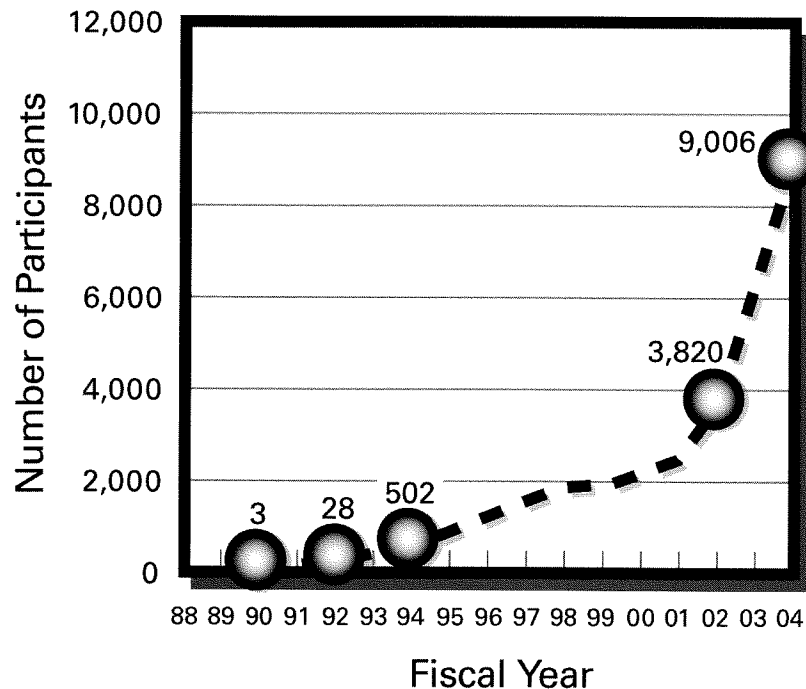
Executive Summary

Indiana numbers tell a story of steady progress and results

Twenty-five years ago, the majority of Hoosiers with disabilities lived with their families, or in institutions or nursing homes.

At the end of 2005, there were 9,000 Hoosiers with disabilities taking advantage of Indiana Home- and Community-Based Waivers, in order to receive the support services needed to live in their own homes. While many more – 15,500 Hoosiers with disabilities – remain on the Medicaid Waiver waiting list as of 2005, according to The Arc of Indiana, we have come a long way in this area.

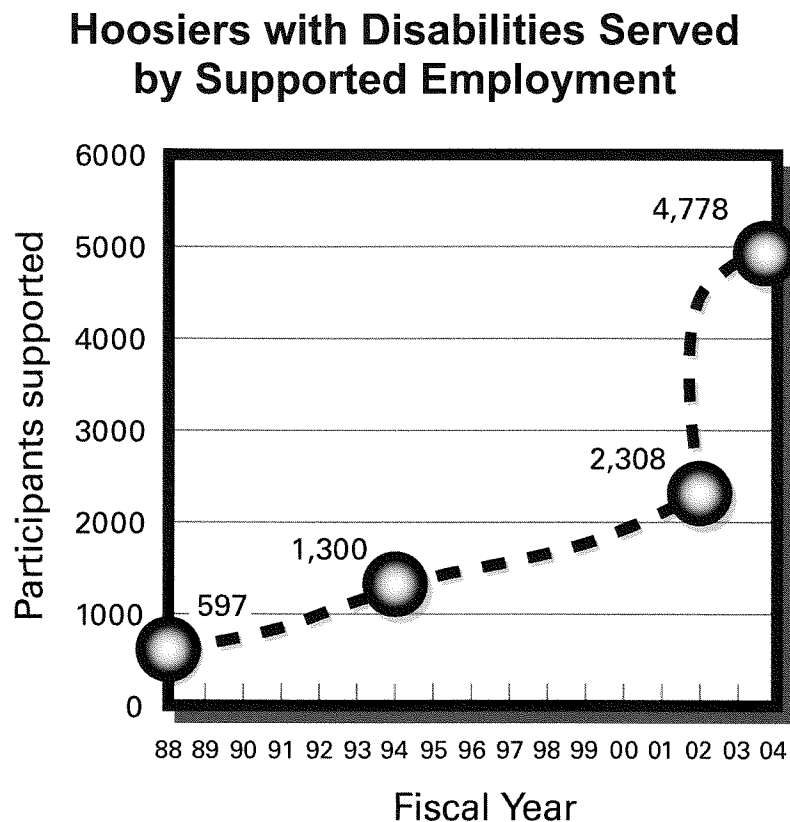
Home and Community Based Services for Hoosiers with Disabilities



* Source: The State of the State In Developmental Disabilities 2005

In 1992, more than 75 percent of the 9,875 Hoosiers with disabilities receiving funds for housing were served in institutional settings of seven persons or more. In 2004, only 33 percent of the 15,043 Hoosiers with disabilities were served in institutional settings.

The number of Hoosiers with disabilities working in the competitive workforce also has increased dramatically. In 1988, only 597 Hoosiers with disabilities were working in the supported/competitive workforce. Last year, that number stood at 4,778. Indiana's progress in this area is more than double the national average, while our spending per capita is somewhat lower than the national average.



* Source: The State of the State In Developmental Disabilities 2005

The following sections highlight key accomplishments in 14 essential areas of the Council's work. This summary is followed by a detailed chronological picture of the Council's results over the course of its history.

Areas of Results

Advocacy and Leadership Training

The Council's focus on **advocacy and leadership training** began in 1980 and has flourished in the areas of systems-change advocacy, self-advocacy groups, Partners in Policymaking, grassroots efforts, community leadership and public policy. Over the past 25 years, the Council has empowered tens of thousands of Hoosiers with disabilities to create positive change throughout the state.

Firsts achieved by the Council include:

- Recognized by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities as a model in representing all people with disabilities.
- Established the first independent living center in Indiana in 1980. As of 2005, there are eight such centers in Indiana, annually providing thousands of Hoosiers with disabilities a place to find answers about how to locate support services to live and work independently.
- In 1990, helped start Self Advocates of Indiana, the first statewide network of people with intellectual disabilities and developmental disabilities. Today, there are 35 self-advocacy groups doing work in Indiana, many of which are affiliated with Self Advocates of Indiana.
- Funded educational efforts to help procure significant funding for implementation of Indiana's 317 Plan – legislation to develop and implement a system to provide Hoosiers with developmental disabilities individualized choices and supports to live independently in the community.
- In 2000, established a network of 50 action teams – comprised of 8,000 members – through Fifth Freedom, a project which facilitates the inclusion of people with disabilities in local community life.

Assistive Technology

As technological advances have improved the lives of so many, the Council has made strides in several **assistive technology** areas that affect individuals with disabilities, including advocacy, training and accessibility.

Matching the pace of progress in technology, the Council:

- Was a founding member of the board of the Assistive Technology Training and Information (ATTAIN) in 1989. Since then, ATTAIN has served more than 300,000 Hoosiers with disabilities with programming, services and activities. This includes assistive technology trainings (individual and groups), exhibits, information and referral, evaluations, direct services, conferences, technical consulting, advocacy and more for all ages of people with disabilities and their families.

- Provided information and support for passage of two important pieces of Indiana legislation:
 - HB 1926 Access to Information Technology, which brought the state into compliance with federal regulations under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 508 requires that government information technology, including Web sites, be accessible to people with disabilities.
 - The 1999 Assistive Technology Warranty Act, giving the same consumer protection to new assistive technology devices as other products available for the general public. Prior to passage, some of the devices used by people with disabilities – wheelchairs, hearing aids, talking software, Braille printers, just to name a few – were warranted for as little as 72 hours.
- Funded a consumer-driven Assistive Technology Resource Center in 1992 to serve Hoosiers with disabilities and their families living in an economically depressed rural area in southern Indiana. More than 2,300 Hoosiers have received services, and the project has since evolved into an independent living center for assisting Hoosiers with disabilities and their families.

Civil Rights

Perhaps no area of the Council's work is more important and far-reaching than **advancing civil rights**. The core values of our nation, made available to all, are the cornerstone of the Council's mission. The Council has educated Hoosiers about the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act, important guardianship issues and the diversity of Hoosiers with disabilities. In particular, the Council:

- Played a leading role in building awareness and statewide support for the 1990 passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act – the most important, single piece of legislation for Americans with Disabilities. The one million Hoosiers with disabilities have more legal protections today than many thought possible 25 years ago.
- Funded a multi-year project to initiate the statewide ADA Training Network targeted to small local government, small businesses, community-based social service organizations, persons with disabilities and their families. More than 3,000 people received training.
- Initiated a Guardianship Task Force and commissioned the Community Service Council of Central Indiana to conduct a statewide survey of guardianship to determine existing resources and the need for services. The Indiana state legislature then created a study committee to review guardianship issues, and the Council provided testimony from the survey results. All of these efforts led to the passage of an important Indiana law for guardianship for people at risk using a model much like that developed by the Council.

- Provided funding in 1988 to help establish the Arc of Indiana Master Trust, which has directly served about 1,600 Hoosier families and individuals to date, as well as thousands of Hoosiers with disabilities and their families who have benefited indirectly from The Arc Trust by way of informal advice, its insurance program, Winter Heating Assistance Program, and learning more about Special Needs Trusts at one of The Arc's many seminars. Today, The Arc of Indiana Master Trust is one of the oldest and largest pooled special needs trusts in the country and is a model for other pooled special needs trusts around the country.
- Released "Legal Guardianship in Indiana: A Report on the Existing Resources and Need for Services," and published a companion document, "Legal Guardianship in Indiana: A Model for a Statewide System of Services." It was distributed to about 3,000 Hoosiers with disabilities and their families.
- Interviewed approximately 2,500 Hoosiers with disabilities, their families and service providers to determine the extent of service delivery to people of color with disabilities, their satisfaction with that service and how inequities were addressed. The document, "Beyond Inclusion: The Reality of Culture and Disability," was subsequently published and distributed by the Council.

Education

Equal access to **education** has been at the forefront of the Council's work since the 1990s. Passage of legislation, funding for scholarships and career development to guarantee Hoosiers with disabilities the same opportunities in the classroom as other children are hallmarks of the Council's work in education. The Council has provided information and support to advocates for a number of significant legislative successes, including:

- HE 1781 "omnibus bill" (1991) providing for transition plans from high school to employment, enabling more than 5,000 Hoosier students with disabilities to transition more easily into their careers since the law passed.
- Project CAREER, funded in 1995 as a higher education and career development project at IUPUI to help students with disabilities develop career-building possibilities and career relationships previously unavailable. The videos produced as part of the project are still being used by Indiana University to assist Hoosiers students with disabilities, as well as being used in trainings at local, national and international conferences. IUPUI also is using the videos as part of an orientation workshop for potential students with disabilities and, to date, 60 students have attended the two workshops.

Electoral Process

Comprehensive system changes often require local, state and federal legislative initiatives, especially in the **electoral process**. As such, the Council recognizes one of its key roles is educating advocates about issues of importance to Hoosiers with disabilities and then empowering those advocates with the tools needed to affect positive changes. The Council has:

- Funded an initiative since 2002 called “Count Us IN,” which was commissioned by the Secretary of State to survey accessibility of election polling sites in all 92 Indiana counties, revealing that only 6 percent of polling places complied with all applicable accessibility standards. The Council subsequently published a comprehensive report in 2005 detailing accessibility successes and areas needing improvement to assist local communities in providing fully accessible polling sites. Over time, this initiative and others will enable Hoosiers with disabilities to more fully participate in Indiana’s election process.
- Throughout the ‘90s, published a number of educational booklets and funded a number of educational conferences on how legislation is introduced, advocated for and passed at all levels of government. Thousands of booklets have been distributed to Hoosiers with disabilities, their families and supporters.

Employment

While employment in competitive work environments is one of the most critical factors necessary to attain independence, Hoosiers with disabilities still struggle to find work. Indiana is not alone in facing this challenge. Overall, Americans with disabilities have the highest unemployment rate of any minority group in the nation.

Since its inception, the Council has worked diligently to **develop employment opportunities** for Hoosiers with disabilities, and results have been achieved:

- Increased the number of Hoosiers with disabilities in supported employment programs to 4,778 as of the end of 2005 – more than double the national average, according to *The State of the State in Developmental Disabilities 2005*.
- In cooperation with the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, the University of Notre Dame and Indiana University’s Affiliated Program, Riley Child Development Center, hosted the Vision 21 national business leadership conference on employment of people with disabilities. The event attracted more than 150 businesses, including Fortune 500 companies such as Steelcase, IBM and Eli Lilly and Company.
- Provided more than 30 supported employment seminars, job training, coaching and shadowing programs reaching thousands of Hoosiers with disabilities and their families.

- Funded the Indiana Medicaid Action Coalition Project in 2000, which through 2005 had helped almost 5,489 workers with disabilities earn income while retaining their necessary Medicaid health coverage.
- Provided educational information and support to advocates necessary for passage of a number of critical supported employment bills in Indiana, including:
 - Employment Discrimination of Hoosiers with Disabilities Act to bring employment provisions of the ADA into force in Indiana.
 - Medicaid Buy-In to provide Medicaid coverage to certain working individuals with disabilities as authorized by federal law.
- Initiated "Profit from Our Abilities" awards to recognize Indiana employers demonstrating leadership in employing people with disabilities in inclusive environments. The program recognized more than 120 exemplary Indiana businesses from 1996 to 2002.

Faith-Based Programs

The Council works with Indiana clergy to encourage inclusion of people with disabilities in their respective worship services. **Faith-based programs** are a meaningful aspect of full inclusion in community life for many people with disabilities. Thankfully, progress has been made.

Over the course of many years, the Council:

- In 2005 and prior years, annually encourage faith-based organizations to participate in or host Disability Awareness Month activities, potentially reaching out to thousands of Hoosiers throughout the state.
- Each year distributes almost 200 Disability Awareness Month "Working with Local Clergy" planning packets to faith-based organizations and other advocates to spread the message of disability awareness through religious instruction, such as Sunday school classes.
- Sponsors a number of workshops to teach Hoosiers with disabilities best practices of inclusive congregations. This included:
 - Council's statewide disability conference presentation by Ginny Thornburgh, author of "That All May Worship" and "Loving Justice" and leading authority on faith-based initiatives and people with disabilities.
 - Faith-based community leadership breakfast to engage community leaders in dialogue toward creating more inclusive congregations.

Family Support

It's no secret that the health and well-being of American society is determined in large measure by how well Indiana **families** cope with the demanding daily stresses of trying to earn a decent living, raise children and carve out time for self-fulfillment. The stresses for families with children with disabilities are often compounded by the lack of basic support services and community exclusion.

Community systems in Indiana are changing for the better, allowing Hoosiers with disabilities and their families to receive more of the support services needed to live and work independently within the community.

Much of this progress in Indiana has been nurtured by the Council's funding priorities for the past 25 years, including:

- Funding a multi-year project starting in 1997 (The Family to Family Network), which was designed to establish regional family information and support resources to provide information, referral, peer support and educational programs to families, the professionals who work with them and to the communities in which they live. In one year, 60 families attended forums to provide feedback and to learn about the infant toddler program, and 566 families were served by the network. Since then, six family support groups have been helping Hoosier families, and a computer database provides searchable information about resources on a county-by-county basis.
- The 1992 seminar funding for 100 policymakers and stakeholders to provide educational information about the Home- and Community-Based Services waiver program, which eventually led to a working group developing the first Home- and Community-Based waiver for people with disabilities in Indiana. The waiver program allows Hoosiers to receive the support services needed to live in their own homes in the community. Indiana started with waivers for 28 Hoosiers with disabilities in 1992. As of 2005, more than 9,000 Hoosiers with disabilities (*The State of the State in Developmental Disabilities 2005*) are taking advantage of the waiver so they can remain with their families and/or live independently.
- Providing information and assistance to advocates resulting in passage of the Family Support bill in 1992. Families Uniting, which was first funded by the Council in 1989 and nationally recognized and targeted for a technical assistance grant to allow families of Hoosiers with disabilities to share knowledge about support services, was a key advocate for passage of the bill.

Health

Access to appropriate health care is often the deciding factor in a person's ability to work in a competitive work setting in the community. To help Hoosiers with disabilities address their many complex **health** issues, the Council has funded and/or participated in a number of very successful programs, assisting thousands of Hoosiers with disabilities and their families, including:

- Being a founding member and active participant in the Indiana Task Force on Managed Care Issues, a 40-member coalition which researched issues critical to consumers in managed health care systems. The initial work of the task force culminated in a one-day conference in 1996, in which more than 200 concerned consumers, providers and advocates agreed on basic rights in a health care system.

- Providing information and support to advocates for a number of legislative initiatives on managed care:
 - Standardized grievance procedures in managed care.
 - SB19 CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program) for families without access to insurance through employment.
 - Provisions to require more information from HMOs so consumers could shop better; to require more involvement of licensed physicians in treatment policies, protocols and quality assurance activities; to establish a "prudent lay person" rule regarding emergency services and mandate HMO access plans to meet needs of vulnerable and underserved persons.
- Funding an educational information campaign to support Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities (MED Works) legislation, which allowed people with disabilities who earn higher incomes to "buy into" the Indiana Medicaid program, thus removing the need to choose between employment and health care coverage.

Housing

Housing concerns for Hoosiers with disabilities have been a priority for the Council since its inception. In 1986, as part of the Council planning process, a consumer survey found that nearly 88 percent of Hoosiers with disabilities felt community living was highly important. Yet, in that same year, funding for supported living was virtually non-existent, forcing most Hoosiers with disabilities to live with their parents/guardians, or live in institutions or large group homes.

Thankfully, progress has been made here in Indiana and nationally. Due to the efforts of the Council and disability advocates throughout Indiana, residents with disabilities living in public and private institutions and nursing homes in Indiana has decreased almost 50 percent since 1990 (*The State of the State in Developmental Disabilities 2005*), while the number of Hoosiers living in more independent settings grew exponentially from 58 people served by supported living funds in 1998 to 8,008 persons in 2004.

Significant Council-specific accomplishments during the past 25 years include:

- Provided start-up funds to the Back Home in Indiana Alliance to attract federal dollars to promote home ownership for people with disabilities in Indiana. The Indiana Alliance worked with Public Housing Agencies in Bartholomew, Knox and Marion counties to secure more than 130 Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers for people with disabilities. In addition, 79 Hoosiers (2003) with significant disabilities have been given the opportunity to live independently in their own homes. Back Home in Indiana Alliance also leveraged a \$1 million award through Indiana Community Development and Housing Authority (now ICDHA, formerly IHFA) for below interest market rate loans for people with disabilities, and secured FannieMae HomeChoice as a mortgage option for people with disabilities. In conjunction with HomeChoice, the Alliance also secured an ICDHA commitment to allow for up to \$15,000 in down payment assistance for people with low incomes and disabilities due to asset limitations in Medicaid and Social Security benefit eligibility criteria. The Alliance was the Recipient of the Year 2000 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) "Best of the Best Practice" Award for Community Development.
- Funded in the early and mid-80s a number of research and training programs to prepare Hoosiers with disabilities, their families, and providers for the eventual shift from large institutional living to independent living for Hoosiers with disabilities.
- Funded a series of five supported-living pilot projects to demonstrate the feasibility of supported living in different settings.
- Funded a conference on supported living, "Home of Your Own," to provide approximately 200 people with information and resources about supported living.
- Provided information and support activities for the 1998 closure of the New Castle state institution. This collaborative effort of Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration, the Council, the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services and others resulted in an outstanding demonstration of successfully moving people with disabilities from institutional environments to supported community living settings.
- In 1997, supported a collaborative project with Future Choices to create an integrated and accessible 37-unit housing complex in Muncie.

Preschool and Younger Children

Studies abound showing that **children** who receive educational and motor-skill nurturing at the earliest possible time more often are better students when they enter kindergarten and first grade. This is especially true for many children with disabilities who require early and intensive motor-skill training and educational support to allow mainstreaming at the traditional age-appropriate time. Thanks to early efforts by the Council and a number of organizations in Indiana and nationally, children with disabilities have greater access to mainstream educational opportunities, even at the earliest ages.

- Programs supported by the Council in the 1980s studied and evaluated the early intervention needs of infants with disabilities and their families in a number of counties throughout Indiana. From there, the Council focused on helping parents of children with disabilities better understand and advocate for legislation promoting necessary education opportunities for their children with disabilities.
- A significant effort initiated by the Council was funding the 1987 start-up of Indiana's First Steps Program, which provides all Indiana families with infants and toddlers experiencing developmental delays and/or with disabilities to access early intervention services close to home when they need them. Through 2005, the First Steps program has assisted 19,432 Indiana infants and toddlers, and their families.

Public Education and Awareness

Building **public understanding and behavioral change** is one of the core missions of the Council's work mandated by Congress. While short-term cause and effects are sometimes difficult to discern, over the course of 25 years the Council has – by virtue of its educational efforts – shifted the opinions and, more importantly, the actions of Indiana's public and private sectors.

New legislation at the local, state and national levels, as outlined herein, is a significant outcome of the Indiana advocates supported by the Council's educational efforts. Equally important is the slow-but-sure shift in attitudes by Hoosiers without disabilities, many of whom now see the potential of Hoosiers with disabilities rather than perceived limitations.

A few of the Council's breakthrough awareness efforts during the past 25 years include:

- Initiating in 1985 the only conference in Indiana to bring together Hoosiers with disabilities, their families, and the public and private sectors to study best-in-class grassroots efforts to allow Hoosiers with disabilities to reach their full potential in competitive employment and inclusive, independent living in the community. The annual conference typically draws 400 attendees.
- Introducing in 1987 a model statewide educational program targeting Hoosiers throughout the state. Created after then-President Ronald Reagan called for states to declare March Disabilities Awareness Month, the Council uses an award-winning educational process to equip and encourage more than 1,000 Indiana advocates to tell the annual story of people with disabilities to tens of thousands of Hoosiers in classrooms, libraries, businesses and a host of other places.
 - The program has won numerous Indiana and regional awards from both the Hoosier chapter of the Public Relations Society of America and the Indianapolis Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators.

- One of the most honored and respected media/community awards in central Indiana – the CASPER Award of the United Way of Central Indiana – was bestowed on the Council for its 1998 Disabilities Awareness Campaign.
- In 2005 and years prior, providing timely information to some 6,000 Hoosier disability advocates via a periodic newsletter and e-newsletter, while also publishing educational materials to build understanding of the issues faced by the more than 1 million people with disabilities who live in Indiana.

Recreation and the Arts

Enabling people with disabilities to participate in **recreation activities and the arts** was an early initiative of the Council. Specifically, the Council:

- Collaborated with VSA arts of Indiana since VSA's inception in 1980, including the 1991 funding of VSA arts' awareness event for special education teachers and others.
- Also in 1991, the Council assisted Partner in Policy graduates to help the Indiana Department of Natural Resources survey all public access sites and fishing areas in an effort to make those sites "as barrier-free as possible." The Burns International Harbor Handicapped Accessible Fishing Pier is one of the first structures designed and constructed specifically with this goal in mind. In addition, an action plan was developed to address the issue of accessibility in other Indiana parks. These Council efforts have the potential to open Indiana's park system more fully to the state's more than one million Hoosiers with disabilities and their families.
- Sponsored "On the Outside," a dramatic presentation comparing living in the community versus living in an institution. Performances occurred at the statewide conference in 1998.
- In 1990, provided start-up funding to the Jumping Mouse Players, an Indiana integrated theatric group of people with and without disabilities who perform throughout the state. Jumping Mouse Players, now in its 15th season, has touched tens of thousands of Hoosiers with its message of inclusion.
- In 2005, developed the Girl Scout Awareness Patch Program to build awareness about people with disabilities among Hoosier Girl Scouts. This program has the potential to touch thousands of Hoosier Girl Scouts every year.

Transportation

One of the state's most vexing challenges is **transportation**. This affects all strata of people in Indiana, but it is especially difficult for Hoosiers with disabilities who often depend on public transportation for competitive employment opportunities. It's no surprise that Indiana's large expanse of rural geography exacerbates the problem.

The Council has funded a number of transportation initiatives to educate advocates and providers on how to improve transportation for those with disabilities. For example, the Council:

- Funded a project to conduct up to 50 training seminars in best practices in transporting, transferring and relating to people with disabilities for school bus drivers and other professionals and paraprofessionals associated with Indiana school transportation. This project and others reached more than 1,000 Indiana bus drivers and others associated with school transportation in the mid-1990s.
- Addressed transportation needs for the more than 326,000 Hoosiers with disabilities who live in rural and semi-rural settings. In 2000, through the Community Transportation Initiative, the Council trained 57 participants to develop complete transportation systems in 34 Indiana counties.
- Was selected in 2004 by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Administration on Developmental Disabilities Projects of National Significance to host a two-day national summit on rural transportation for people with disabilities. The summit took place in 2004 and was attended by 145 participants from 30 states. The final report and white paper, "National Summit on Transportation For People With Disabilities in Rural Settings" is posted online and serves individuals in Indiana and across the country.

Council efforts to improve transportation options for people with disabilities in Indiana's rural areas have helped expand transit for **all** Hoosiers living in rural and semi-rural areas of the state.

Summary

The Council's deliberate and long-term commitment to affect change in Indiana is evident. Each success represents one more step toward reaching our goal of independence and inclusion for all Hoosiers with disabilities. We remain focused on the future and will continue to invest time, money and resources into making Indiana a more positive, productive place to live and work for all.

Timeline of Results

Advocacy and Leadership Training Results

1980

During the 1980s, the Council funded the startup of Indianapolis Resource Center for Independent Living (IRCIL), the first independent living center in Indiana.

The Council funded systems advocacy projects to inform residents of state-operated and private institutions of their rights and how to exercise them, provide advice to human relations committees at state institutions on obtaining needed services and removing barriers to meeting identified needs, and how to recruit and train volunteer advocates.

1985

The Council funded an ARC-based project to initiate a self-advocacy group in Indiana.

1988

The Council funded the groundwork for a statewide self-advocacy group, including surveys of existing groups and organizing three regional training sessions.

1990

The Council funded an Allen County project to initiate 10 self-advocacy groups.

The Council funded a leadership conference that led to the formation of a statewide network, Self Advocates of Indiana.

In 1990, the Council initiated the Partners in Policymaking academy, based on the Minnesota model, for people with disabilities and family members. This eight-weekend annual project is in its 15th year. There are now more than 500 graduates of the academy. These graduates are in demand to serve in leadership roles in their communities, as well as in policy development efforts at all levels.

1994

The Council funded a series of ongoing leadership planning seminars titled "Vision to Reality," which brought together representatives from local communities, business, consumer, education, media, mayors' offices, to identify issues and prepare local action plans. Twenty-four communities participated and engaged in planning and implementing strategic plans regarding disabilities issues. These communities also received support through the Council to conduct meetings and provide funds for Hoosiers with disabilities to participate.

The Council initiated the "Net Work Indiana" newsletter for distribution to Mayors' offices and National Organization on Disability (NOD) representatives in Indiana to promote local community efforts to address important issues.

The Council supported local community representation at its annual conference in a special session designed to encourage networking.

1995

The Council published a booklet, *Forming a Community-Based Advocacy Group*, to detail the fundamentals for forming an active community advocacy group.

The Council sponsored a series of community organizing workshops utilizing the above publication.

1997

Fifty new candidates and six alternates were selected from 144 applicants for Partners in Policymaking – 20 percent of who were from minority backgrounds.

1999

The Council funded three young Hoosiers to participate in the 1999 National Leadership Conference for Youth with Disabilities in Alexandria, Virginia.

The Council funded a video and handouts to support the 317 Plan, conducted several workshops on 317 Plan issues and helped form a "Friends of 317" group to advocate for funding the implementation of the plan. The state legislature allocated \$39.3 million in funding.

2000

The Council funded a project to build upon the emerging coalition of individuals with disabilities and family members in Monroe County and supported them in creating a cross-disability and cross-cultural coalition at the local level.

The Council funded a project to establish a viable and visible cross-disability voice in Allen County. The project produced a unified public agenda for systems change relevant to the issues of the disability community, educated elected officials and candidates running for public office relative to the systems-change needs of the disability community, and offered continuing education opportunities to people with disabilities regarding the political and governmental systems they must access in order to fully participate in systems-change advocacy and civic responsibilities.

The Council funded the multi-year Fifth Freedom project to initiate a statewide network of local cross-disability advocacy organizations. Local leaders were given technical and financial assistance to organize local and/or statewide grassroots efforts.

The Council funded consumer involvement in the Olmstead planning process.

2001

The Council funded Self Advocates of Indiana to expand its organizational competence, build upon its successful outreach training activities, provide leadership training for self advocates and enlarge its outreach effort to include independent living centers, as well as new audiences of self advocates, parents, professionals, legislators and community leaders.

The Council funded Citizen Advocacy Inc. in Monroe County to recruit, support and match community advocates without disabilities with community partners with disabilities.

The Council funded a project to facilitate the establishment of a personalized citizen advocacy program to provide friendship, protection, support and practical assistance to vulnerable persons with developmental disabilities and/or mental disorders through one-to-one relationships with volunteer citizen advocates.

The Council provided information and support to people with disabilities and other advocates who supported SB 63 Interference with Medical Services, otherwise known as Steve Arnold's bill, making it a Class D felony if a health care worker intentionally interrupts or alters the administration of prescription drugs and results in injury.

The Council provided information and support to people with disabilities and other advocates who supported SB 215 Health Issues, as well as establishing a Governor's Commission on Caregivers to study long-term care. An amendment expanded the Consumer Directed Attendant Care program to include people receiving certain Medicaid waiver services, as well as CHOICE participants.

Assistive Technology Results

1984

The Council funded multi-year projects to introduce rehabilitation engineering to vocational services agencies for people with disabilities. The program deploys engineering principles and modern technology to provide work-site and home modifications, fabrication of adaptive equipment and the modifications of commercial health aids for Hoosiers with disabilities.

1989

The Council hosted the fall conference of the National Association of Developmental Disabilities Councils, which featured technology as its primary focus.

The Council became a founding member of the Assistive Technology Training and Information (ATTAIN) board of directors.

1991

The Council supported the ATTAIN conference with scholarships for people with disabilities who otherwise would not have been able to participate.

1992

The Council funded a project establishing a consumer-driven assistive technology resource center serving the economically depressed rural area around Vincennes. It provided opportunities to experiment with high- and low-technological devices and adaptations.

1994

The Council funded a project to develop a version of the Indiana Speech Training Aid specifically for improving communication skills of Hoosiers with developmental disabilities. Previously, this computer-based speech training aid had only been accessible to children without developmental disabilities.

1998

The Council's annual conference featured a workshop called Assistive Technology for the Future, which included an ATTAIN presentation on how to get the right equipment and make the modifications needed at a low cost. It also featured technological breakthroughs regarding low-vision aids, telecommunication and assistive technology for the aging population and Hoosiers with disabilities.

1999

The Council provided information and support to advocates of the Assistive Technology Warranty Act, which provides consumer protection for new assistive technology devices. Prior to passage, some of the devices used by people with disabilities – wheelchairs, hearing aids, talking software, Braille printers, etc. – were warranted for as little as 72 hours.

2001

The Council provided information and support to advocates for HB 1926 Access to Information Technology. This bill required the Data Processing Oversight Commission to adopt standards to bring the state into compliance with federal regulations under section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 508 requires that government information technology, including Web sites, be accessible to all people with disabilities.

Civil Rights Results

1984

The Council funded a project giving materials and training to families to help establish guardianships and trust funds. These guardianships help provide for family members with disabilities when parents are no longer able to do so. Products included a 45-minute multimedia presentation and booklet entitled *Future Planning Decisions by Choice, Not Chance – An Asset Planning Workbook for Parents of a Disabled Child*. These materials focused on the nature of various kinds of guardianship, asset planning, trusts and governmental benefits for the purpose of informing consumers and professionals. The Council funded the start up of The Arc of Indiana Master Trust.

1985

The Council funded a multi-year project to establish a program of citizen advocacy and guardianship serving at least 10 persons with developmental disabilities in Greene, Lawrence, Monroe and Owen counties.

The Council funded a multi-year project to establish guardianship services for persons with developmental disabilities in Elkhart County and at least one neighboring county, a guardianship board, provision of corporate guardianships, recruiting and training of individual guardians, and providing representative payees for Social Security and Supplemental Security Income.

The Council funded a multi-year project to recruit, train and match volunteer guardians with persons who have developmental disabilities and are in need of guardianship services. This project helped meet the guardianship needs of at least 15 persons in southeastern Indiana.

1986

The Council initiated a guardianship task force and commissioned the Community Service Council of Central Indiana to conduct a statewide survey of guardianship to determine the level of existing resources and the unmet need for services. This was followed by information and advocacy that led to passage of a state law for guardianship for people at risk. This law followed a model much like that developed by the Council that offered local control and personal involvement.

1987

The Council released *Legal Guardianship in Indiana: A Report on the Existing Resources and Need for Services* and its companion document, *Legal Guardianship in Indiana: A Model for a Statewide System of Services*.

1989

The Council played a lead role in distributing information and garnering support for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and its subsequent regulations.

1990

Throughout the 1990s, the Council supported and participated in the annual Indiana Black Expo.

The Council collaborated in a joint effort with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to inform the public about Title I of the ADA.

1991 - 1994

The Council funded a multi-year project initiating the statewide ADA Training Network targeting small local governments, small businesses, community-based social service organizations, Hoosiers with disabilities and their families. This initiative resulted in more than 3,000 people being trained on the ADA.

The Council became a founding member of the Indiana Great Lakes Task Force for ADA, a group which conducted a series of ADA summits.

The Council provided funds for 12 people to attend training sponsored through the Department of Justice on the ADA.

The Council was instrumental in the design and implementation of Indiana's Motor Voter Law.

1992

The Council-funded ADA Training Network educated more than 1,200 people on the principles of the ADA, its value and basic application. The project included an ADA Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund training component.

1994

The Council advocated for HB 1252, which placed federal ADA requirements in the Indiana building code.

The Council announced the availability of a multimedia library on ADA and civil rights.

The Council established the ADA Training Network newsletter and statewide "800" referral and information number on ADA training, materials, information and resources.

The Council compiled and disseminated more than 1,000 information packages, which included the ADA law and regulations for Titles I, II, III and transportation.

The Council funded advanced ADA training for 20 trainers, the majority of whom were Hoosiers with disabilities or their family members. The training covered employment issues and how to present information effectively.

1995

The Council funded PROJECT ADA-DEAF with the Indiana Division of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services to conduct three training events on ADA and the deaf community.

The Council funded "Beyond Inclusion," a project to determine levels of service delivery to people of color with disabilities, their satisfaction with that service and how inequities are addressed. Research covered the full state and included available demographics, newly generated information based on local data collection and personal interviews of 2,031 people with disabilities, their family members and 404 providers. The document, *"Beyond Inclusion: The Reality of Culture and Disability,"* was subsequently published and distributed by the Council.

The Council published several fact sheets with information about different ethnic groups and the percentage of those with disabilities. These included "Hispanic Americans" and "Native Americans and Native Alaskans."

1996

The Council funded a project to examine all aspects of its activity regarding cultural competence and to provide subsequent recommendations.

The Council published "Overcoming Double Discrimination" to reflect its ongoing commitment to minority populations and to educate Hoosiers about issues affecting these populations of people with disabilities.

2000

The Council, in conjunction with the ADA Steering Committee, the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community and several corporate sponsors, hosted a July 26 celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Council funded the Indiana Association of Rehabilitation Facilities, Inc. (INARF) to conduct training programs with Indiana's service-provider industry to encourage development of its own cultural-competency infrastructure.

Education Results

1991

The Council provided information and support to advocates for the HE 1781 "omnibus bill," creating transition plans for people with disabilities as they went from high school to employment.

The Council provided information and support to advocates for the HE 1785 legislation establishing the special education preschool fund.

The Council provided information and support to advocates for the SE 528 legislation, which allowed more children to receive special education services in-state who previously were sent to out-of-state placements.

1992

The Council funded *Preventing and Accepting Disabilities* textbook guides. These booklets provided technical assistance to teachers on preventable causes of disabilities, as well as presenting real-life experiences to foster acceptance and inclusion of Hoosiers with disabilities.

1993

The Council provided information and support to advocates for the SB 68 bill requiring publishers to provide texts in ASCII text for Braille writing.

The Council provided information and support to advocates for the SB 356 bill that made Braille instruction an option in Individual Education Programs (IEP) for people who are visually impaired. It also required Braille courses for people teaching students who are visually impaired.

1994

The Council provided information and support to advocates for the HB 1380 bill for a special needs and welfare recipient trust fund and additional funding for the special education deficit.

The Council funded scholarships to enable Hoosier parents of children with disabilities to become better informed about inclusion.

The Council developed and distributed a resource materials file of information on inclusive education.

1995

The Council funded Project CAREER, a higher education and career development project at IUPUI allowing students with disabilities to develop career-building possibilities and relationships previously unavailable. The project staff also conducted trainings at other universities in the state and elsewhere.

1996

The Council, in collaboration with the Indianapolis Urban League, supported the Barbara Jordan-Wilma Rudolph scholarship to assist women of color with disabilities to access higher education.

1999

The Council funded a project to develop and implement a comprehensive Indiana plan for inclusion in the classroom.

2000

The Council co-sponsored a workshop by Carolyn Romano and Janet Vohs of the Federation for Children with Special Needs called "Conflict Resolution: Building Partnerships."

The Council funded a project to strengthen and expand the provision of technical assistance to the Step Ahead Councils in Vigo and Monroe counties to further develop their respective community capacity plans.

2001

The Council funded a project with the Parent Information Distribution Center to provide parent training on special education and IEPs.

2002

The Council supported families of children with disabilities to participate in the No Child Left Behind Conference in Lake County.

2002

The Council provided assistance for students with disabilities and family members to participate in a conference on transition to high school.

The Council provided assistance for parents of people with disabilities to participate in a school-to-work transition conference.

Electoral Process Results

1990

Council publications start carrying get-out-the-vote messages prior to every election.

1991

The Council's Partners in Policymaking project, which began in 1991 and continues today, provides detailed instruction on the electoral process and accessibility issues relating to it.

1993

The Council provided educational information for advocates supporting PL3-1993, a bill requiring polling place accessibility and accessible instructions for filling out absentee ballots.

1994

Council staff served on a committee to draft legislation to implement the National Voter Registration Act, which ensured that the needs of people with disabilities were covered.

The Council updated and published "The Legislative Process," an educational brochure first published in the 1980s describing the path a bill follows to become a law at both the state and federal levels.

1999

The Council funded a get-out-the-vote project in southern Indiana entitled "People Power" that both informed people with disabilities about the importance of voting, and provided assistance, as needed, for Hoosiers with disabilities who wanted to reach their polling places.

2000

The Council funded a training program for voter registration, voters' rights and other related activities conducted by the National Organization of Disabilities.

2002

The Council launches Count Us IN to increase the numbers of Hoosiers with disabilities participating in the electoral process.

The Council is named by the Secretary of State to serve on the Help America Vote Planning Committee in Indiana.

The Council, as part of the Help America Vote Act plan with funding by a grant from the office of the Indiana Secretary of State, recruited and trained people to survey polling places in the state and provide written reports on accessibility. Local boards were then charged with making required accessibility changes, as needed.

The Council published the updated voter participation guide "Voting in Indiana – 2002."

2003

In November, the Council's Count Us IN project organized and conducted a survey of polls in Marion County.

2004

In May, the Council's Count Us IN project organized and surveyed the polls in 48 counties, and the remaining 43 counties in November.

The Council produced "Removing Barriers for Voters with Disability: A Guide for Local Officials" with support from ADA Indiana.

2005

The Council continued its cooperation with the office of the Secretary of State in the implementation of the HAVA.

Employment Results

1984

The Council funded a job coaching program serving predominantly rural areas in north central Indiana.

The Council funded a series of multi-year Supported Employment projects.

1985

The Council funded the Pathways to Employment series of events in communities around the state. These events brought together community leadership, including mayors, council members and business leaders, to learn about supported employment and brainstorm ideas for hiring people with disabilities in each of their communities.

The Council funded a series of workshops on vocational programming for persons with severe and profound developmental disabilities, behavior management and stress management.

The Council funded "Strategies for Change," a premier event that launched the supported employment initiative in Indiana. This was the first statewide training event in which national leaders in supported employment provided their expertise and experience to Indiana constituents about what the state should be doing in this area. Attendees included provider agency directors and staff from across the state, as well as Indiana state agency staff.

1986

The Council was instrumental in Governor Orr's creation of the Supported Employment Policy Steering Committee to facilitate more state inter-agency collaboration.

The Council funded Project COMPETE to develop and test a curriculum to transition people with severe disabilities into supported employment. The curriculum was utilized in a series of mini-seminars around the state.

The Council collaborated with the Social Security Administration (SSA) in conducting a seminar on SSA incentives for employment. Participants learned how to utilize SSI/IRWE/PASS planning, work periods and Extended Period of Eligibility.

The Council deployed a specialized staff member to provide consultation on supported employment to agencies and organizations on a statewide basis.

1987

The Council, in cooperation with the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Notre Dame University and the Indiana University Affiliated Program, Riley Child Development Center, hosted the Vision 21 national business leadership conference on employment of people with disabilities. The event attracted more than 150 businesses, including Fortune 500 companies, IBM, Eli Lilly and Company and Steelcase.

The Council funded 14 multi-year supported employment projects.

1988

The Council collaborated with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Education, Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Employment and Training to initiate 11 Supported Employment model projects and the development of a white paper. Data collected from the models resulted in the creation of the first-ever state budget line item for supported employment.

1990

The Council funded a project to demonstrate fully inclusive employment in combination with full community inclusion supports.

1991

The Council provided information necessary to support advocates' efforts to pass a state law changing personnel rules to allow state agencies to use supported employment in hiring personnel.

The Council collaborated with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce to sponsor NET GAINS, a statewide conference of business leaders on perceptions and realities of the ADA and employing people with disabilities.

The Council funded a project to increase the numbers and types of businesses participating in high school vocational training programs and hiring youth with disabilities.

The ADA Physical Implementation Task Force of the Council developed recommendations for state government to use in accessing services, programs and communications.

The Council funded a data systems project to track the results of supported employment efforts and potentially identify best practice locations.

The Council funded production of a videotape documenting people with disabilities in Indiana working successfully in actual business environments. The tape was designed for presentation to businesses to educate and encourage employment of people with disabilities.

The Council funded development of a model program to change job coaching from an outside intervention design to one in which employers and coworkers provide natural supports.

The Council funded a project to model full natural supports for community integration across employment, residential living and other community activities.

The Council provided information and support to advocates for the "omnibus bill," providing for equity in state employment.

The Council provided information and support for HB 1789, a bill which strengthened requirements for public schools to establish transition plans for all children 15 and older.

The Council funded a project to provide training on the Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS), Impairment-Related Work Expenses (IRWE) and other related work incentives to consumers, families, advocates, local Social Security case managers and service providers throughout the state.

The Council advocated to the Governor's office to make state employment accessible to people with disabilities.

1992

The Council provided information and support to advocates for passage of Indiana legislation bringing employment provisions of the ADA into force in Indiana.

While the Council continued funding the supported employment projects previously begun, it also funded a project in which juniors in high school shadowed people in the workplace to gather information for decision making about career choices.

The Council funded a newsletter on issues, practices and news associated with PASS/IRWE implementation.

The Council funded a supported employment project implemented by an organization staffed and controlled by people with disabilities.

1994

The Council funded Project DOOR to develop and support a Work Incentive Trainers Network providing peer training and technical assistance workshops to enhance the skills of Work Incentive Trainers.

1995

The Council funded a supported employment project in an urban area through an independent living center.

The Council co-sponsored an employment awareness seminar with the Federal Executive Association and the Indiana ADA Steering Committee.

1996

The Council initiated "Profit from Our Abilities" awards recognizing employers demonstrating leadership in employing people with disabilities in inclusive environments.

2000

The Council funded the Indiana Medicaid Action Coalition Project to assist state legislators and policymakers develop and implement an Indiana Medicaid buy-in program for workers with disabilities.

2001

The Council funded a model project to establish a business leadership network in southwest Indiana to encourage more employment of Hoosiers with disabilities.

The Council provided information and support to advocates for the Medicaid buy-in law providing Medicaid coverage to certain working individuals with disabilities as authorized by federal law.

Faith-Based Programs Results

1990

Faith-based Indiana organizations are encouraged annually to participate in or host Disability Awareness Month activities. One of the annual information packets contains a guide for local advocates on working with local clergy.

1996

The Council purchased the National Organization on Disability's (NOD) publication "Loving Justice" and distributed it throughout the state as way to encourage people with disabilities and others to engage in dialogue with the religious community.

2000

The Council funded a project to conduct accessibility workshops with churches in rural Indiana communities utilizing the publication, "That All May Worship: A Ramp Is Not Enough."

2003

The Council sponsored a pre-conference breakfast meeting to engage community and religious leaders in a dialogue with the author of "That all May Worship: A Ramp Is Not Enough."

The Council's 2003 annual statewide conference featured a workshop titled Community Partnerships for Access and Worship. The workshop focused on NOD's "That All May Worship: A Ramp is Not Enough" initiative and the Community Partnership program. NOD staff taught best practices and creative solutions to create inclusive communities and congregations, featuring tools, resources and practical examples from communities all over the nation.

Family Support Results

1983

The Council funded three multi-year crisis-intervention demonstration projects providing support to families of people with disabilities in times of crisis.

The Council funded 11 multi-year respite-care service projects around the state to demonstrate the provision of assistance to families of Hoosiers with disabilities so parents could obtain the rest and recreation needed to maintain their role.

1989

The Council collaborated with the Board of Health Commission on the Handicapped in acquiring a federal technical assistance grant for family support best practices. The project brought the resources of the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI) and the national office of the United Cerebral Palsy Association (UCPA) under a contract from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration on Developmental Disabilities.

In association with the above, the Council funded Families Uniting, a parents' group whose sole purpose was to become knowledgeable about family support.

1990

The Council funded three multi-year model projects in crisis intervention and family support. Two were in urban settings, and one was in a rural setting.

The Council funded a project to conduct training for people with disabilities, family members, case managers and others in the utilization of Medicaid Waivers. After a highly successful first year, the Indiana Budget Agency determined that the Medicaid Unit of Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration would conduct most of the activities initiated by the project.

The Council funded a policy research project on family support, as implemented in Indiana and other states. The research included analysis of the results of the Council-funded family support pilot projects.

1991

The Council provided information and support to advocates for Senate Bill SE 30, which brought relief to families serving children at home while attempting to meet the Medicaid spend-down rules.

The Council established the Consumer Investment Fund to assist people with disabilities and their family members to participate in training events, conferences and governmental affairs that they otherwise would have been unable to attend.

The Council funded a multi-year, full-inclusion demonstration project in which necessary supports were provided to assure that people with disabilities were fully integrated into the learning, working, recreational, spiritual and social life of their communities.

1992

The Council funded a training project in personal futures planning which trained facilitators and developed personal futures plans for individuals with disabilities.

The Council funded a one-day seminar for 100 policymakers and stakeholders to educate them about the Home- and Community-Based Services HCBS waiver program.

The Council formed a work group and hired a consultant to write the first HCBS waiver for people with developmental disabilities in Indiana.

The Council provided information and support to advocates resulting in passage of the Family Support Bill. Families Uniting was particularly active in the effort.

The Council funded a project to design, develop and field-test specialized training materials, formats and methods to effectively train persons with developmental disabilities and their family members in the principles, dynamics and actions of Social Role Valorization.

The Council funded an expansion of the DIAL IN statewide database of disability-related services. Originally focused on the school-aged population, the project was expanded to include the adult and aging populations of people with developmental disabilities, as well as to advertise, provide access to, evaluate and maintain the information gathered for the training calendar and the service directory.

1993

The Council provided information and support to people with disabilities and other advocates regarding the family support bill SE 108.

1994

The Council funded the Regional Family Resource Project to establish a coordinated statewide network of nine regional family information and support resources to provide information and referral, family support and educational programs to Hoosiers with disabilities and chronic illness, along with their families, the professionals who work with them and the communities where they live.

The Council provided information and support to advocates in support of state legislation establishing a Family Support Council. The Governor's Council has a member on that body and has supported its efforts financially through assisting with mailings and materials printing.

The Council funded a project with Crossroads Rehabilitation Center to prepare pediatric residents from Indiana University School of Medicine and Methodist Hospital to respect and effectively communicate with families of people with disabilities. The project included participation in three days of "hands-on" time with children with special needs and their families.

The Council funded a planning project and continues to advocate for the development of a long-range plan for residential supports that will move the state toward home and community supports as an alternative to placement in an institution.

1997

The Council funded a multi-year project (The Family-to-Family Network) designed to establish regional family information and support resources to provide information and referral, peer support and educational programs to families, the professionals who work with them and the communities in which they live. In its first year, 60 families attended forums to provide feedback and learn about the infant toddler program; 566 families were served by the network, six family support groups were in operation and a computer database providing searchable information about resources on a county-by-county basis was maintained and expanded.

The Council funded the "Journey into the Community: a Retirement Option Conference" seminar conducted in cooperation with the University Affiliated Program (now the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community). Participants learned what local opportunities were available to people with disabilities and how to get involved after retirement.

The Council funded a Supported Living Conference featuring programming on shifting from facility- to community-based services. More than 200 people were in attendance.

1998

The Council funded a project with The Mental Health Association in Indiana (MHA) through its Indiana Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health subsidiary. This project helped develop new and expanded local parent support groups, develop a consumer-driven program to advocate administratively and legislatively on behalf of children with mental illness, provide education and training to families and support group leaders and promote parent and professional collaboration to enhance services for children with mental health needs.

The Council published and distributed the first of three editions of "The Consumer Guide to Medicaid Waiver Home- and Community-Based Services."

2000

The Council funded a project to strengthen and expand the provision of technical assistance to the Step Ahead Councils in Vigo and Monroe counties to further develop their respective community capacity plans.

2002

The Council provided information and support to advocates in support of the Medicaid Support Services Waiver, which provided home- and community-based services to thousands of people with disabilities.

2003

The Council provided information and support to advocates in support of Senate Bill 493, which expanded home- and community-based care options for people with disabilities.

Health Results

1983

The Council funded a research project resulting in publication of a report entitled "Decoding Special Education Statistics: Counting the Developmentally Disabled Population in Indiana."

1987

The Council funded a report by the Preventive Health and Handicap Services Coordination Study Commission to identify causes of diseases, disabling conditions and health problems in children. The report, "The Right Start," recommended solutions that would lead to healthy life choices and systems changes.

The Council funded a prevention and early intervention project in Lake County wherein parents were contacted for information and referral before leaving the hospital with identified newborns.

1989

The Council published "The Choice is Ours," an analysis of ways in which Medicaid served and disserved people with disabilities in Indiana. The report also listed recommendations for potential improvements.

1990

The Council funded a research project to identify post-acute needs of persons with traumatic brain injury and develop a comprehensive service model.

1993

The Council funded a project with Crossroads Rehabilitation Center to prepare pediatric residents from Indiana University School of Medicine and Methodist Hospital to respect and effectively communicate with families of people with disabilities. The project included participation in three days of "hands-on" time with children with special needs and their families.

1994

The Council provided information and support to advocates as they pursued improvements in health insurance and health care for people with disabilities in the Real Health Care campaign.

The Council participated in a national teleconference on health care reform and has provided considerable coverage of the issue in the Council's monthly newsletter.

The Council provided targeted information to advocates on the progress of health care reform and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) position. In addition, the Council provided periodic coverage of the issues through its newsletter beginning in January of 1994, and included an issue devoted entirely to the topic in April.

The Council's statewide conference included a track on health care reform and the disability community.

1995

In 1995, the Council was a founding member of the Indiana Task Force on Managed Care Issues, a 40-member coalition which began research on issues critical to consumers in managed health care systems. The work of the task force culminated in a one-day conference in 1996, in which more than 200 concerned consumers, providers and advocates agreed on basic rights in a health care system.

1997

The Council developed health care, Medicaid and managed care position statements. These were provided to decision makers and advocates to improve the state's policymaking process.

The Council provided information and support to advocates for legislation of standardized grievance procedures in managed care.

1998

The Council provided information and support to advocates of SB 19, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for families without access to insurance through employment.

The Council provided information and support to advocates of legislation requiring more information from HMOs to consumers interested in their services; more involvement of licensed physicians in treatment policies, protocols and quality assurance activities; a "prudent lay person" rule regarding emergency services; and HMO access plans to meet needs of vulnerable and underserved persons.

2000

The Council prepared the report entitled "The State of Managed Care in Indiana and its Impact on People with Disabilities." This report delineated ways in which managed care served and disserved people with disabilities, and listed recommendations for potential reforms.

2001

The Council funded an information campaign in support of Medicaid for Employees with Disabilities (MED Works). This legislation allowed people with disabilities who earned higher incomes to “buy into” the state Medicaid program, removing the need to choose between employment and health care coverage.

The Council provided information and support to advocates for SB 79, the Medicaid definition of disability. The law, which went into effect Jan. 1, 2001, expanded Indiana's Medicaid coverage to provide disability health care benefits to people with severe medical conditions expected to last four years or more and that would prohibit them from working.

The Council provided information and support to advocates of HB 1122 addressing Insurance coverage for autism. Asperger's Syndrome and autism are defined as neurological conditions and, as such, are now covered under group insurance for state employees, group health insurance and group health maintenance organization contracts.

Housing Results

1980

The Council funded the initiation of a series of group homes.

The Council funded the initiation of the Residential Services Division of the Indiana Department of Mental Health.

1983

The Council funded specialized group homes focusing on autism, intensive training and high social structure.

The Council formed a task force on nursing home utilization and funded a project to carry out utilization review of nursing homes in collaboration with the Indiana Department of Mental Health and the Indiana Department of Public Welfare.

1984

The Council funded a training event designed to prepare both consumers and providers for the initiation of community-based residential services for severely impaired persons with developmental disabilities.

The Council funded a two-day workshop on initiation and operation of "family care" residential services.

1985

The Council funded a task force to study and make recommendations on residential issues and the current status and needs of people with disabilities in Indiana.

The Council funded a study to determine the skills of people with disabilities in nursing homes as a means of better determining programmatic needs. The study also determined the number of residents without medical needs who were living in nursing homes.

1986

The Council funded an adult support residence for people with disabilities who did not have intellectual impairments.

A Council survey determined that 87.6 percent of respondents cited community living as highly important.

1987

The Council funded an Indiana residential monitoring project to train consumers to monitor and evaluate group home settings within the framework of quality of life, client satisfaction and client interests. It also trained and supported monitors to work with facility operators to make desirable changes, and appropriately advocate beyond the level of encouragement or negotiation stages. This project gave consumer families greater knowledge of service-delivery systems and a sense of ownership of those systems.

1990

The Council funded a series of supported living pilot projects demonstrating the feasibility of supported living in different settings.

The Council funded a pilot project to demonstrate that persons with severe developmental disabilities who currently resided in large group settings could live in their own homes, as long as they had appropriate supports and resources to do so. The project utilized Personal Futures Plans using a network of interested persons.

1991

The Council funded a model project to demonstrate methods for supporting persons with multiple disabilities as they moved from segregated group living settings into homes and apartments that they chose and controlled by themselves.

The Council funded a supported living project in which people with disabilities moved directly from an institutional setting to a supported living setting in the community.

The Council funded an Indiana Residential Planning project examining the entire gamut of residential services to assess exactly what the needs were in comparison to what was available. One aspect of the grant was to look at Medicaid programs and determine how those funds might be applied to meet residential needs.

1994

Three projects funded by the Council made a joint presentation on employing innovative methods in community living at TASH's national convention in December of 1994.

1995

The Council funded three projects to assist people with severe disabilities to move directly from congregate settings or family homes into their own homes.

1996

The Council participated in the National Home of Your Own Alliance.

The Council funded a conference on supported living, "Home of Your Own," to provide approximately 200 people with information and resources about supported living.

The Council members served on a 14-member task force on developmental disabilities to develop a plan of implementation for the future of community living.

A supported living research project funded by the Council collected information on quality of life and cost-benefit information resulting from this model of service and other residential settings for persons with disabilities. The project analyzed the quality-of-life issues between people in supported living and those in institutions. The project also analyzed the experience of each of the supported living pilot programs funded by the Council and similar programs to learn what enhancements of current systems and practices would support people with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining their own homes or apartments and avoiding more restrictive placements.

The Council co-sponsored a workshop with the Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities to train teams from around the state on practical ways to support people in the community so they were not isolated.

The Medicaid Waiver Interdisciplinary Team (MWIT) was formed by the Council to assist the state in guiding the development and expansion of new waivers and overseeing training and implementation activities.

1997

The Council provided startup funds to the Back Home in Indiana Alliance to attract federal dollars to promote home ownership for people with disabilities in Indiana. The Indiana Alliance has since been accepted as a member of the National Home of Your Own Alliance, a technical assistance center based at the University of New Hampshire. The Back Home in Indiana Alliance is a collaborative effort which also includes the Council, ATTIC (A Resource Center for Independent Living), Division of Aging & Rehabilitative Services/Bureau of Developmental Disabilities, Institute for the Study of Developmental Disabilities and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The Council funded a study on the benefits of supported living.

The Council reviewed and supported plans to close the New Castle State Developmental Center. The Council was part of a Task Force of advocacy organizations that examined various options and alternatives to institutionalization.

Approximately 140 advocates and legislators participated in The Council's "Supported Living" Legislative Update open forum on supported living that informed participants on policy issues and legislation related to residential services and supported living. This conference was conducted in collaboration with the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community.

The Council held a series of regional Indiana forums on supported living.

The Council funded a video showcasing the supported living model of services. It was shown to about 250 people who attended various meetings and conferences and has continued to be made available on request.

The Council adopted a policy position statement for publication and distribution to decision makers, advocates and service providers to support changes that eliminated or improved Medicaid or other program eligibility requirements limiting the holding of assets that prevented persons with disabilities from owning and maintaining their own homes.

The Council provided funding for a collaborative project with Future Choices to create an integrated and accessible 37-unit residential complex in Muncie.

The Council funded a project to establish a home ownership training, technical assistance and information for people with disabilities.

1998

The Council provided information and support to advocates bringing the Indiana building code into compliance with ADAAG requirements in response to PL 118-1994.

The Council provided information and support activities surrounding the closure of the state institution in New Castle. This collaborative effort of FSSA, the Council, the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services and others resulted in an outstanding demonstration of successfully moving people with disabilities from institutional environments to supported community living settings.

The Council conducted three regional Indiana seminars on supported living and waivers to disseminate the "Consumer Guide to Medicaid Home- and Community-Based Services."

2000

The Council hosted "Putting the Pieces Together," a day-long supported living seminar in Evansville.

2002

The Council funded staff supports from the Institute for the Study of Disability and Community to the HOME Investment Partnership Program, which conducts funding activities to create housing opportunities for low-income people. Project participants assisted in developing the Indiana Association for Community and Economic Development Home Ownership Education Curriculum.

The Council funded a survey of private home-modification services.

2003

The Council provided information and support to advocates seeking legislation requiring the development of guidelines for builders who choose to implement visitability in new-home construction.

The Council and the Indiana Housing Finance Authority funded "Home Modification Services in Indiana." This report examined the current state of home modification services, identified barriers to development and made recommendations to improve the status of these services.

Preschool and Younger Children Results

1985

The Council funded a series of integrated preschool projects to demonstrate the feasibility of including children with disabilities in urban and rural environments along with children without disabilities.

1987

The Council funded the startup of "First Steps," the Infant and Toddler program (under P.L. 101-476) in Indiana.

The Council funded an evaluation study of the population served in the preschool projects and in relation to First Steps. This included services provided, staff characteristics, costs and other relevant data.

1988

The Council funded a teleconference on community integration for preschool children with disabilities, mainstreaming children with disabilities, facilitating skill development and more. A videotape was produced and a five-day training of professionals in special educational and early childhood development was conducted.

The Council funded projects beginning in 1988 to establish training programs for high-risk pregnancy groups and for health and human service professionals in Greene, Lawrence, Tippecanoe, Owen and Whitley counties. Councils on prevention were established in Greene, Lawrence and Owen counties.

1989

The Council funded a prevention and early intervention project in St. Joseph County in which parents were contacted for information and referral before leaving the hospital with identified newborns.

1990

The Council funded a project to provide information on advocacy, support groups, current laws and the rights of the family to parents of newborns with or at risk of developmental disabilities.

The Council funded a project to distribute a school inclusion training video to each special education director in the state.

The Council funded a project to develop a version of the Indiana Speech Training Aid specifically for improving the communication skills of persons with developmental disabilities. Previously, this computer-based speech training aid had only been accessible to children without developmental disabilities.

2002

The Council funded a project for training on special education for 30 parents of preschool-age children. Participants learned how to effectively advocate for their children in the special education process, how to smoothly transition their child into the Local Education Authority and how to get a satisfactory IEP for their child. Graduates subsequently participated in distributing information to the community and assisted other families with special education issues.

Public Education and Awareness Results

In addition to the items mentioned below, in the 1980s the Council began to publish information products, such as:

- “Interacting with People with Disabilities” (now “The Power of Words”) – A guide to interacting with people with disabilities.
- “People First” – A brochure delineating the value and application of people-first language, attitudes and policy.
- Planning packets for conducting Disability Awareness Month activities/events – Thirty different planning packets for community groups and advocates to assist in planning disability-related events and activities.
- Policy Manual – Gives the Council's position statements on the following issues: Transportation, Individual and Family Support, Education, Medicaid, Consumer-Driven Managed Care, Justice/Legal System, Supported Living Recommendations and Employment. Statements are reviewed and approved by the full membership, and guided by the Council's mission and the Developmental Disabilities Act.
- Policy Platform – This publication is an overview of the Council's stance on citizen participation, community supports, education, legal justice issues, employment, health care, long-term care and transportation for people with disabilities.
- Responding to Disability: A Question of Attitude – This questionnaire is designed to stimulate thinking and dialogue.
- The Council – A brochure describing the Council's responsibilities and activities.
- Toll-Free Resource Guide – Indiana statewide disability-information numbers
- Building Momentum – A progress report for the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities
- These publications have been well received and evaluated as highly useful by recipients.

1983

The Council published its first brochure introducing the Council and summarizing its mission and values.

1985

The Council introduced the “Vision” newsletter, with each issue focusing on a theme such as guardianship or employment and providing information on model practices, resources and Council actions relating to the theme.

The Council began sponsoring an annual statewide conference to cover a myriad of topics and issues such as community building, education, futures planning, advocacy and community-living alternatives.

1987

President Ronald Reagan declared March Disability Awareness Month. In coordination with the national campaign, the Council has implemented a major grassroots campaign in March each year since.

Annual Awareness Month activities consistently reach tens of thousands of Hoosiers throughout the state with the message that people with disabilities are people first. The Council offers approximately 30 information packets suggesting a variety of ways to tell the story.

The Council, in collaboration with Indiana University and The Protection and Advocacy Commission, hosted a statewide Blueprint for Action event to provide training in conducting awareness campaigns.

The Council conducted the first Capitol Investments awareness-activities event at the Statehouse. Disabilities awareness activities targeted to legislators and other policy makers were conducted in the Capitol.

1988

The Council published "People First" and awareness-activities materials, still distributing these on a regular basis.

The Council's consumer-satisfaction survey project with the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community resulted in publication of "Voices – Indiana's Citizens with Developmental Disabilities Speak Out."

The Council provided leadership for the national Call for Justice network campaign within Indiana. Council publications and events kept people with disabilities connected with the legislative process for ADA.

1990

The Council introduced the "On Target" bulletin to provide timely local, state and national items of interest relating to Hoosiers with disabilities.

The Council published the 1990 report on the "State of the State" in regard to the accomplishments and future vision regarding developmental disabilities.

1991

The Council makes "On Target" available on the Internet.

The Council initiated an e-newsletter distributed to an extensive list of people requesting a subscription.

1993

The Council provided information and other support to advocates in support of SB 332, which proposed changing "handicap(ped)" to people with disabilities or disability in the entire Indiana code.

1994

The Council assisted Ameritech by participation in a news release regarding Ameritech's program to provide bills in accessible format.

The Council funded a media workshop at the January 1994 conference that provided an opportunity for cross-training in how to effectively relate to various media entities.

1995

The Council hosted a National Disability Employment Awareness Month business leadership breakfast, featuring the executive director of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities.

1996

The Council provided state leadership for the national Justice for All campaign led by Justin Dart.

The Council and the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Indiana partnered to begin sponsoring an annual statewide essay contest during Disability Awareness Month. Awards are given each year and a booklet comprised of the winning essays is published for use in schools and libraries.

1997

The Council made a concerted effort to meet directly with news media for informal "backgrounders." In addition, 1997 marked the inauguration of the Council's annual Award for Excellence in Reporting on Disability Issues to heighten awareness of disability issues and the need to cover those issues statewide. This award is co-sponsored by Indiana University's School of Journalism and the Department of Journalism at Ball State University.

The Council conducted six regional town meetings across the state for all interested persons to discuss disabilities issues. The results of these meetings shaped the state plan and much of the input was published in other media.

1998

One of the most honored and respected media/community awards in central Indiana – the CASPER Award presented by the United Way of Central Indiana – was bestowed on the Indiana Governor's Planning Council for People with Disabilities for its 1998 Disabilities Awareness Campaign. Excerpts from the judges' comments included: "A very impressive grassroots communication project, which over 10 years of growth has perfected a hometown, volunteer-driven mechanism to carry out a wide range of messages on issues affecting Hoosiers with disabilities. The mechanism puts the well thought-out, creative communication tools into the hands of thousands of its volunteer 'advocates' who promote grassroots events and utilize the contributions of major financial supporters like Ameritech and Meijer to help fund the cost of producing materials ... successfully promoting a 'can do' message on what people with disabilities can achieve."

The Council received the Public Relations Society of America (Hoosier Chapter) Keystone Award for Disability Awareness Month campaign elements.

1999

In 1999, the Council held nine statewide policy forums throughout Indiana (Clarksville, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Lakeview Portage, Muncie, South Bend, Terre Haute and West Lafayette). The sessions offered an overview of the legislative and budgetary issues affecting people with disabilities, including community services, health, education and assistive technology. Approximately 300 people attended the forums.

The Council co-sponsored with 10 other organizations the Human Services Legislative Reception designed to attract the attention of lawmakers while the Indiana General Assembly was still in session. More than 20 legislators and 50 disability advocates and service organizations gathered to discuss issues and current legislation.

The council published a guide for making Web sites accessible.

The Council received the Public Relations Society of America (Hoosier Chapter) Keystone Award for Disability Awareness Month campaign elements.

The Council received the ADDY award for a local public service campaign from the Advertising Club of Indianapolis.

2001

The Council funded the inaugural exhibit of the Museum of the Person through which audiences come to better understand the community experience of disability, through the voices of those both with and without physical and/or cognitive disabilities. The Museum of the Person is a "virtual" museum, with exhibits posted online and in alternative electronic formats such as video and radio.

2002

The 2002 Disability Awareness Month campaign took home an EPIC (Excellent Performance in Communications) Award from the Indianapolis chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators and a Pinnacle Award from the Hoosier Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Awards were based on the quality of the campaign's research, planning, implementation and evaluation.

Recreation and the Arts Results

The Council has collaborated with VSA arts of Indiana since its inception as Arts Unlimited in 1980. The Council has published VSA announcements and information in its newsletters and other communications.

The Council's Disability Awareness Month materials include a 34-page guide for arts activities that also promotes Indiana artists with disabilities who choose to participate.

1984

The Council funded the production of the video and ancillary materials "Always a Chance for Change," showing a puppet performance and video clips to illustrate the abilities of young adults with disabilities.

1990

The Council funded equipment for the Jumping Mouse Players to support performance art to educate children and other members of the public about disabilities.

The Council funded a LEKOTEK project in which an adapted toy lending "library" was established and parents were introduced to helping children learn to use adapted toys.

1991

The Council funded Champ Camp, a week-long, overnight outdoor experience for 12 children, ages 6-12, with tracheotomies and those needing ventilator assistance.

The Council funded VSA arts to conduct an arts and disability-awareness event for special education teachers and others.

The Department of Natural Resources used a team of Partners in Policymaking graduates to survey all public access sites and fishing areas to make them as barrier-free as possible. The Burns International Harbor Handicapped Accessible Fishing Pier is one of the first structures designed and constructed specifically with this goal in mind. In addition, an action plan has been developed to address the issue of accessibility in other Indiana parks.

1992

The Council funded a project to build the capacity of local community recreation programs for inclusion of people with disabilities. Recreation task forces were established in communities to create quality integrated recreation programs and activities.

The Council funded a project to develop and distribute a video on inclusive scouting.

1993

The Council funded an Indianapolis Art League Project on Disabilities and the Arts.

The Council funded a demonstration project with the Bloomington Parks Department to demonstrate creating access in city parks.

The Council published a listing of accessible fall recreation sites.

The Council funded a project producing and disseminating a training video on inclusive scouting for the Indiana Boy Scouts of America.

1998

The Council sponsored a statewide dramatic presentation of "On the Outside" in which people with disabilities performed expressions of comparison of life inside and outside institutions.

2003

The Council sponsored the artistic director of Dance Detour as keynote speaker at the statewide disability conference.

2004

The Council collaborated with Indiana Arts Commission, VSA arts of Indiana and the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community in sponsoring the Indiana Forum on Careers in the Arts. The forum was designed to provide encouragement and practical recommendations for people with disabilities who are interested in pursuing the arts.

2005

Developed the Girl Scout Awareness Patch Program in 2005 to build awareness about people with disabilities among Hoosier Girl Scouts.

Transportation Results

1980s

Subsequent to the Council-initiated "Task Force on Transportation Report" on the status of transportation for people with disabilities in Indiana, the Council participated in a statewide series of regional trainings promoting coordination and collaboration among service providers to improve transportation for people with disabilities.

The Council participated in the Section 16 (now 5310) vehicle purchase program located in the Department of Transportation, and successfully advocated for vehicle accessibility and coordination/collaboration policies to be applied.

1993

The Council funded a project to evaluate the existing transportation system in Hendricks County, and to determine ways to better accommodate Hoosiers with disabilities.

The Council funded a project to conduct approximately 50 training seminars for school bus drivers and other professionals and paraprofessionals associated with Indiana school transportation. The seminar reviewed best practices for transporting, transferring and relating to people with disabilities.

1994

The Council supported training events for 500 bus drivers and 800 other professionals and paraprofessionals associated with Indiana school transportation.

2000

The Council began the Community Transportation Initiative utilizing a two-part approach to addressing transportation for people with disabilities in rural or semi-rural settings. The initiative conducted an academy to train locally identified teams (representing leadership in service, business and government) in the components needed to develop complete transportation systems for their own areas. There were 57 participants in 11 teams representing 34 counties who were trained.

The Community Transportation Initiative academy produced a manual, "Developing Public Transit in your Community: Curriculum and Resource Guide," which is available on the Council's Web site.